

THE COLEOPTERISTS NEWSLETTER

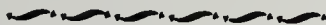
EDITORIAL

Here I shall include a brief editorial comment to open this new sequence of Newsletters. I'm pleased with the international flavor of the current contents and ask you *all* to contribute notes for future Newsletters.

Please send you notes typed and double spaced. We'll try to get them into print as soon as possible.

It's been suggested that we include an annual list of deceased Coleopterists with a bibliography of obituaries and of printed bibliographies. I think this is a fine idea and ask your cooperation to make this list reasonably complete. Send me a notice when you know of such a death and include citations whenever applicable.

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INTERNATIONAL FAIR FOR THE EXCHANGE AND SALE OF INSECTS

Probably not many subscribers of this Newsletter have heard of the Insect Fair in Basel, Switzerland. It is organized by the Entomologische Gesellschaft Basel and takes place once a year on the last weekend of September. The 51st Fair on September 25/26, 1976, again was a full success. 187 exhibitors showed their treasures to the 860 visitors who had come from 9 countries. This fair is particularly interesting for Coleopterists, since 40% of the displayed material is Coleoptera, another 55% is Lepidoptera and about 5% belong to other insect orders. Of course the families most in demand such as Cicindelidae, Carabidae, Elateridae, Buprestidae, Scarabaeidae, Lucanidae and Cerambycidae are there, and also some extremely beautiful Chrysomelidae and Curculionidae. However, the specialist interested in less spectacular families, for example, Dytiscidae and others, will benefit from this event and also may find what he seeks.

Inquires may be sent to Mr. Andreas Schwabe, Spalenberg 28, CH-4012 BASEL (Switzerland).

Walter Wittmer
Naturhistorisches Museum Basel,
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A COLLECTING AREA FOR COLEOPTERISTS

Many modern collectors are somewhat reluctant to venture into areas without some convenient home base from which to operate, and quite frequently this center of operation must provide not only an ideal vantage point which touches different types of environment but living conveniences for the collector as well. The Forestry School of Siguatepeque, Honduras is one such center.

The school is located at an elevation of 3,500 feet and is in the heart of typical Honduran pine forest. In addition to the Pinaceae about 25 additional plant families are represented. The area is classified ecologically as humid subtropical with an annual precipitation of nearly 120 cm., the wettest season occurring between May and October. The temperature ranges between about 40 to 95°F, with the warmest months being May and June and the coldest months being December and January when the temperature drops to nearly 40°F.

Within a distance of 25 miles from the school is the Comayagua Valley, a tropical desert region, typified by such plants as *Acacia*, *Agave nopalea*, prickly pear, and other such arid dwelling species. About the same distance north one enters a semitropical area replete with large assortments of broad-leaved plants. On the various peaks surrounding Siguatepeque are found rain and cloud forests. All of these regions and the transitional zones between them harbor great hosts of tropical insect fauna.

In addition to its unique position, the school has an Entomology Department which has a fair-sized insect collection with good representation of most of the beetle families, and a good cross-section of the other insect orders.

For research workers and visitors, the school has guest houses, a low-cost dining hall, and safe drinking water. No fees are charged at present for the use of the rooms for those willing to assist in the development of the collection or the school's entomology program. Only recently additional paved highways and other road improvements have made access into the more remote areas possible.

The purpose of the above information is to call to the attention of fellow coleopterists and other entomologists that here in Siguatepeque, Honduras our National Forestry School may be ideal as a base of operations for field work.

J. V. Mankins
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